
Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:21 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW:
Attachments: EIS letter to USDA 6-19-09.docx
Categories: pulled

From: bwood@sspps.org [mailto:bwood@sspps.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: docbernwood@aol.com
Subject:

Stephanie,
I would like to submit this letter as part of the public comments for the scoping hearing.
Thank you.
Bernadette

Dr. Bernadette E. Wood
23775 Essex Avenue
Farmington Min 55024
651-460-2347
docbernwood@aol.com

June 19, 2009

Stephanie Strong

USDA

As a 12 year resident of Eureka Township in Dakota County, I live within ½ mile of the proposed Hampton to LaCrosse section of the CAPX 2020 power line.

I-194-001

I believe that the Environmental Impact Statement being conducted by the USDA should recommend a no-build alternative, which relies on conservation, local generation and local transmission to provide for our future energy needs. This alternative would protect the Mississippi Flyway, the Wildlife Refuge, or any of the other protected natural areas from the harmful affects of the power line.

I-194-003

I-194-004

At this stage, a no build alternative is a viable option due to the fact that demand is dropping and the La Crosse line is not needed. The EIS should use Xcel Energy's and Dairyland Power's most current forecasts, not old out-of-date information;

I-194-005

Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other natural resources;

I-194-006

Power lines cause environmental harm: visual impacts, noise, magnetic field risks especially on farm lands, decline in property values, fragmentation of habitat, risks to endangered and rare species, bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway, and an increase in cancer especially childhood leukemia as a result of electromagnetic fields.

I-194-002

The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to this line need to be evaluated. The La Crosse project should be considered with the Brookings and Fargo power lines in making this environmental review

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Bernadette Wood

Dr. Bernadette E. Wood
23775 Essex Avenue
Farmington Mn 55024

I-194-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-194-002

Your comment has been noted. While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need. It is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need and cumulative impacts will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-194-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-194-004

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-194-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-194-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to visual resources, noise, rare species, human health and safety, as well as socioeconomic impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.